

HAER  
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50-SEN,  
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ROCK ISLAND RAILROAD,  
SENECA PASSENGER DEPOT  
I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor  
At Main and Cash streets  
Seneca  
LaSalle County  
Illinois

HAER No. IL-44

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
ROCK ISLAND RAILROAD, SENECA PASSENGER DEPOT  
I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor

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HAER No. IL-44

**Location:** I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor  
Main and Cash streets  
Seneca, LaSalle County, Illinois

UTM: 16 E.365350 N.4575300  
Quad: Seneca

**Date of Construction:** 1911-12

**Builder:** Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad

**Present Status:** Abandoned

**Significance:** The original wood-frame passenger depot at Seneca was built soon after the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad was completed in the 1850s. Also of wood-frame construction, the present depot was completed in 1912 and is one of the few wood-frame passenger depots still standing in the canal corridor.

**Project Information:** The Illinois and Michigan Canal was designated a National Heritage Corridor in 1984. The following year HABS/HAER embarked on an extensive inventory and documentation project of the 100 mile-long corridor. Field work for this project was concluded in 1988. Final editing of the documentation was completed in 1992.

**Historians:** David Kelliher and Timothy Whittaker, 1986; Carolyn Brucken, 1992.

When the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad reached Seneca in 1853, a small timber-frame freight and passenger station was built to serve the town. The present passenger station was constructed in 1911-12 after a fire in 1911 destroyed the original structure. One of the few timber-frame passenger depots in the canal corridor (most are of brick and stone construction), this building has been abandoned for many years.

The Seneca depot is a one-story building measuring approximately 50' x 17'. The exterior is covered with asbestos shingles which were probably placed over the original wood clapboard siding. The large hipped roof also contains asphaltic shingles. The windows and doors are boarded over.

**SOURCES:**

Sanborn Map Co., Seneca, Illinois (New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1892, 1898, 1907, and 1924).

Morris Daily Herald, December 18, 1911.

History of LaSalle County, Illinois (Chicago: Interstate Publishing Co., 1886).